

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this very thoughtful editorial by the New Bedford Standard Times be inserted here, because I know it strikes this important point, and argues thoughtfully and persuasively for NMFS to follow its admission of error with corrective action. Further, Mr. Speaker, when this House debates the renewal of the sustainable fisheries act, known as the Magnuson Act, this admission by NMFS that it had seriously undercounted the amount of fish in New England waters will be relevant as I and others talk about the need to revise fishing regulation in a manner that will make it less likely that unnecessary restrictions will be imposed on hardworking people based on faulty data.

[lsqb]From the Sunday Standard Times,
Sept. 15, 2002[rsqb]

NMFS HAS YET ANOTHER REASON FOR COOPERATION

What a relief it must have been for hundreds of commercial fishermen in New Bedford and throughout New England this week when scientists at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Woods Hole announced that their data for the last two years was flawed.

Big-time oops!

There's nothing as satisfying as learning that you aren't crazy after wondering whether you are.

Many of our region's fishermen must have thought they were going crazy, as they pulled up increasing numbers of groundfish in the last two years, but were told by scientists that many groundfish species were not recovering from decades of overfishing.

The NMFS scientists did not properly calibrate the trawl they use for annual fall and spring surveys in New England waters. One side of the trawl had a cable much longer than the other side, making it impossible for the gear to efficiently gather groundfish. It also made it impossible for the data from these two years to be compared with data from previous years.

The NMFS admission is particularly important because this region's fishermen are now under some of the strictest regulations they have ever experienced. How this mistake will affect those regulations remains an open question.

But the National Marine Fisheries Service should take this as a strong sign that more fishermen need to be involved with scientific research for the sake of the fishermen, the scientists, and overall accuracy in reporting fish numbers.

Just as there have been federal science observers on fishing boats, there should be fishermen observing the scientific methods used aboard federal trawl survey boats. Environmental advocates also should be part of the review as another check and balance.

NMFS would be wise to quickly establish a review panel consisting of fishermen, gear experts, environmental observers and scientists to examine the data in question and determine the changes that are needed in current fishing regulations based on these errors. Do we allow more fishing of some species, less, or wait for new data?

And it wouldn't hurt for scientists from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to make a humble and public apology to fishermen for the error that could have a significant effect on their lives, their families and the port communities where they live.

TIME FOR REGIME CHANGE IN BURMA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate September 18th, 2002, the 14 year anniversary of one of freedom's great tragedies. On this day in 1988, a military regime assumed power in the country of Burma during a brutal crackdown, slaughtering approximately 10,000 nonviolent demonstrators in the streets of Rangoon and throughout the nation over a period of months. Were these demonstrators committing some crime? Had they broken the law of the land? Were they planning some heinous act of treason?

The answer is no on all three counts—they did not, had not, and were not.

The people of Burma are guilty only of sacrificing for the same dreams that have summoned greatness in men and women alike throughout history: freedom, democracy, and human rights. As Burma's 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has said, "... even under the most crushing state machinery courage rises up again and again, for fear is not the natural state of civilized man."

September 18th, 1988 was not only a tragedy, however. It was also a day of great hope. Since 1988, the Burmese people's courage has never for one instant waned or even cooled. In 1990, despite harassment, arrest, and intimidation, the National League for Democracy was voted into power with an astounding 82% of the seats in parliament. We members of Congress, as elected officials, in particular should understand the uniqueness of this victory. I know most of my colleagues in this building would do anything for that kind of mandate. In 1991, 1996, and 1998, the people of Burma and the National League for Democracy demanded recognition of this election with demonstrations and party gatherings that resulted in widespread arrests and subsequent torture. And, in August of this year, Burmese students again took to the streets in Rangoon, calling for the release of all of Burma's political prisoners.

We know from our own history that the struggle for freedom is not easy nor is it without sacrifice. The sudden rush of change might come at any time, whether through the crumbling of a wall or a crowd's deafening cry for democracy in the streets. We do know, however, that the United States of America has always stood for the principles that our nation was founded upon, and we will continue to support those that share our dreams.

Burma's military regime should be put on notice that the United States will neither forget September 18th, and what it represents for the Burmese people, nor tire in our belief in freedom. Most importantly, the regime should also know that many of us in the United States Congress are growing weary of the constant stalling and delaying of a full-scale political dialogue that includes Burma's ethnic nationalities. Now is the time for change in Burma and I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for that change.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN LEFKO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a longtime community and business leader in Jackson County, MO, will be receiving the Humanitarian of the Year Award at the Truman Heartland Community Foundation annual gala dinner, "A Salute to Hometown Heroes." Mr. Allen Lefko has demonstrated a strong commitment to the area and its economic development and has helped to ensure a brighter future for all residents and businesses.

Mr. Lefko has developed and maintained an excellent reputation through the years by his many achievements. He is the founder, President, and CEO of Noland Road Bank; Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Bank of Grain Valley and Grain Valley Bancshares, Incorporated; President of the Independence Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; President of the Independence Rotary Club; member of the Independence Regional Health Center Board of Trustees; founder, President, and Treasurer of the Association for Industrial Development for Independence; President of the Suburban Banker Association and the Kansas City Clearing House Association; President of the Grain Valley Economic Development Council; and Choices program sponsor and instructor.

Mr. Lefko has volunteered much of his time to the communities of eastern Jackson County. He has served on many YMCA and Boy Scout committees and has been engaged in such important committees and boards as the Grain Valley Arts and Beautification Council Fund, Grain Valley Senior Citizens Nutrition Program Fund, and the Association for Industrial Development for Independence Scholarship Fund. Mr. Lefko has also participated in the I-Share Campaign, the selection of Rotary/City of Independence Teacher's Truman Scholarship Fund recipients, Independence and Grain Valley Chambers of Commerce, the Board of Directors of the Grain Valley Assistance Council, and he was an auctioneer for the Grain Valley Assistance Council annual fund drive.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Allen Lefko all the best. We thank him for over 40 years of dedicated service to eastern Jackson County.

AMENDING LEGAL DEFINITION OF LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced legislation that will amend the legal definition of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include the expedition's route between Wood River, Illinois and the Falls of the Ohio, which rests between Clarksville, Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky.

I am grateful that representatives ANNE NORTHUP and MARK SOUDER have joined me